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From: Mary Foley
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Hey hi. How are you?

Just read CACO story on coyote hunting. Although park legislation says hunting is allowed--not sure if it is a may or a shall allow-- can't the park decide who, what, where, when, and how hunting will be managed? Sure Kathy as Acting Supt doesn't want to open this can of worms with the State who will surely oppose any move to limit any hunting.

What do you think?

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: May 16, 2017 at 7:00:28 AM EDT
To: <Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 16, 2017

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DOI In The News

Secretary Zinke Announces \$23.6M For Water Conservation.

TriplePundit (5/15, Casey) reports that on Friday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "announced a \$26.3 million round of funding aimed at boosting water supplies in seven western states." The \$23.6 million comes through the Bureau of Reclamation. Zinke said, "This funding provides essential tools for stretching limited water supplies by helping communities reclaim and reuse wastewater and impaired ground or surface waters ...These tools are just part of the toolkit for bridging the gap between water supply and demand and thus making water supplies more drought-resistant."

More Time For Public Comment Urged On Bears Ears National Monument.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (5/15, Maffly) reports that "the 15-day window for public comment on Utah's Bears Ears National Monument is closing fast, prompting calls on the Department of Interior to expand the comment period beyond May 26 and to add ways for interested residents to weigh in on the controversial designation and 26 other large monuments." The article also points out that "Interior officials are soliciting input on the matter online through the federal website www.regulations.gov, despite the lack of internet access among some American Indians affiliated with the tribes that either proposed or support the 1.3-million-acre monument." Monument advocates also say "they were largely excluded from engaging with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke during his four-day swing through Utah last week on a 'listening tour' organized by Gov. Gary Herbert's staff."

Additional coverage was provided by Utah Public Radio (5/15, Kovash).

Trump Administration Urged To Let Bears Ears National Monument Stand.

For the "Pundits" blog of The Hill (5/15, Van Dam, Contributor), Paul Van Dam, the former Salt Lake County District Attorney, if President Trump follows through on "a plan to eliminate or significantly shrink" the Bears Ears National Monument, "Trump — who prides himself as a dealmaker — would be undermining America's national heritage for little more than short-sighted politics." He warns that "eliminating Bears Ears would be an unprecedented decision that would trigger serious legal challenges and cement President Trump's legacy as the most anti-conservation president in American history." Such a move "would set a dangerous precedent, enabling this and future presidents to alter or eliminate America's protected public lands on a whim or at the behest of partisan political delegations or special interests like oil, gas, coal or uranium mining companies. It might endanger all national monuments in the U.S."

Secretary Zinke Criticized For Not Giving Enough Access During Listening Tour. The editorial board of the Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (5/15) gives a "thumbs down" to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "for not spending enough time with Native American stakeholders and pro-monument parties when he visited Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments last week." The board says "it's

disappointing that Zinke's 'listening tour' was apparently crafted with selective hearing."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the monument was provided by the [Nation Sun News](#) (5/15) and [ARTFIXdaily](#) (5/15).

Industries Clash Over Review Of National Monuments.

[CNBC](#) (5/15, Tausche) reports that the Trump Administration's review of national monuments has "created a tug-of-war between industries like fishing, ranching and logging, arguing the creation of monuments comes at the cost of jobs, and the Main Street businesses that get foot traffic from visitors to the monuments." According to the article, "since the window for public comments period opened Friday, more than 10,000 letters have been posted on the Interior Department's landing page." The article says that "some support the review; others support keeping the monuments as they are."

RV Industry Stresses Importance Of Public Land Access. In a piece for [RVBusiness](#) (5/15, Friesen), Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association Chairman Darrell Friesen "stresses the need for the RV industry to promote access to national parks." Friesen writes that "by adopting policies championed by the Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable (ORIR), which includes members of the RV industry, the federal land management agencies can unlock private investment that can improve RV campgrounds and the overall visitor experience."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review was provided by the [Lompoc \(CA\) Record](#) (5/15) and the [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (5/16).

Interior Deputy Secretary Nominee Bernhardt To Face Senate.

[The Hill](#) (5/15, Cama, Henry) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary nominee David Bernhardt is scheduled to testify before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. The article notes that "the former George W. Bush administration veteran was unanimously confirmed to the No. 3 spot at Interior in 2006, a fact likely to come up from Bernhardt's supporters at the hearing." However, "greens and conservation groups, not to mention some Democrats, oppose Bernhardt's nomination on conflict of interest grounds, raising the prospect of a more bitter confirmation process than for other nominees who went through the energy panel." But "Bernhardt is likely to find strong support among Republicans: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has praised his 'extensive experience' and 'legal career' as 'exactly what is needed to help streamline government and make the Interior and our public lands work for the American economy."

AT&T Helps Interior Department With Mobile Device Management.

The [Washington Exec](#) (5/14, Knauth) reports that AT&T will help the Interior Department in "securing and managing the agency's inventory of mobile devices." AT&T will "act as an authorized reseller of an application

that gives near real-time visibility into 27,000 mobile devices used by DOI employees." The application, IBM Maas360 Mobile Device Management Solution, "allows DOI to remotely control and support mobile device use for employees, and AT&T says the centralized oversight will increase productivity and reduce security and compliance risks."

Rep. Amodei Won't Revive Bill To Transfer Federal Land In Nevada.

The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (5/16, Spillman) reports that Rep. Mark Amodei, "who introduced a massive lands bill last session," won't be "reviving it." Amodei said the a proposal for the federal government to transfer millions of acres of land in Nevada is "not something I think the majority of people think is a good idea." According to the article, "widespread public support for the idea...materialized."

Study Says US Will Fall "Far Short" Of Climate Goals Under Trump Policies.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/15, Harvey) reports that a new analysis from the Climate Action Tracker says the U.S. will "fall far short of its Paris climate goals, thanks to the environmental policy rollbacks carried out under the Trump administration." Meanwhile, the study finds China and India are "on track to overachieve on their climate pledges...meaning their efforts may help make up for shortcomings in the U.S."

Op-Ed: Secretary Zinke Is "Promoting True Conservation".

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/15, Hoffman, Contributor), Gabriella Hoffman, a conservative media strategist and consultant, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "reverence for angling, hunting and the outdoors means that he is promoting true conservation in his new post instead of preservation." Hoffman draws a distinction between conservation, which is "seen as the proper use of nature," and preservation, which "aims to protect nature from any use." According to Hoffman, "the latter philosophy has prevented Americans from fully enjoying opportunities in nature."

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

Oregon Won't Endorse Eastmoreland Historic District Proposal.

The [Oregonian](#) (5/15, Njus) reports that "state historic preservation officials said Monday they'll oppose forming a national historic district in the Eastmoreland neighborhood of Southeast Portland, dealing a significant blow to an effort to curb development there." The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office "said it is withholding its earlier endorsement, citing discrepancies in the count of property owners within the proposed district's boundaries." Chris Havel, associate director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, said, "It has the historic character to qualify. But

there's a process problem."

Additional coverage was provided by the Willamette (OR) Week (5/15, Monahan) and KOIN-TV Portland (OR) Portland, OR (5/15, Hewitt).

Yellowstone Addressing Hostile Workplace Environment Claims.

The Cody (WY) Enterprise (5/15, Freedman) reports that "Yellowstone National Park's maintenance division has been accused in an official federal government report of fostering a sexually hostile atmosphere for female workers." Since then, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "visited the Park and told employees he will tolerate no sexual harassment in the workplace." Also, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk was "technically given 90 days from April 12 to address the charges in writing but said Monday in Cody before addressing Cody Club, he is on pace to finish by mid-June."

Drakes Bay Oyster Cleanup Marred By Claims Of Worker Endangerment..

The SFist (5/15, Kukura) reports that the National Park Service is "now cleaning up the 2,500-acre natural estuary known as Drakes Estero and restoring it to wilderness land." However, "a former cleanup employee is claiming unsafe working conditions at Drakes Estero, including hazardous chemicals, lack of proper safety equipment, and not providing a toilet for employees for who were simply forced to do their business right into the waters of Drakes Bay." The article says that whistleblowing employee Matthew Zucksberger's "claims resulted in numerous OSHA citations, and also resulted in that employee promptly being fired." Zucksberger also "claims he hasn't been paid by Galindo Construction, the firm hired by National Park Service to clean up the Drakes Estero Marine Conservation Area site."

NPS Plans Improvements At Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

The Marietta (GA) Daily Journal (5/15, Catts) reports that the National Park Service "intends to spend millions of dollars over the next five years to improve three components of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in metro Atlanta, as part of a 25-year overall plan." According to the article, "the proposal calls for improving three more parts of the 16.5-mile set of 15 parks along the river in metro Atlanta until all are refurbished." Bill Cox, the area's superintendent said, "And what makes us unique at this park is the fact that we can still put people on some fairly lengthy trails (both land and water trails) in some really beautiful natural areas next to a metro area of almost 5.5 million (residents). We need to continue to capitalize on that uniqueness and enhance it."

Everglades National Park Removes Endangered Crocodile From Dry Tortugas.

The Miami Herald (5/15, Staletovich) reports that "more than 14 years after it mysteriously appeared in the remote islands of the Dry Tortugas National Park, a solitary crocodile dubbed the loneliest in the world is gone." On Sunday, "after getting too chummy with visitors bearing food, park staff and state wildlife officials lassoed the threatened American croc, nicknamed Cleatus, and pulled it from the moat where it frequently hunkered under a bridge leading to Fort Jefferson." On Monday, "after recovering from a tranquilizer, the croc was released in Everglades National Park in West Lake, just off the Main Park Road." Park manager Glenn Simpson said, "It wasn't a rash decision. There were two considerations we held highest and that's visitor safety and the safety of the crocodile and it's general health."

Petition Seeks Halt To Cape Cod National Seashore Coyote Hunts.

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (5/15, List) reports that "nearly 3,000 people have signed a petition calling for the Cape Cod National Seashore to ban the hunting of carnivores, such as coyotes, shorten the hunting season for other animals and fund the research of carnivores in the park." The petition "also asks the Seashore to hire Jonathan Way, who currently works as a part-time ranger, for a full-time or term position as a biologist to study Eastern coyotes in the Seashore."

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Seeks Teacher To Work As Temporary Summer Ranger.

The New Jersey Herald (5/16) reports that the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is "looking for a teacher to work this summer as a temporary ranger as part of the National Park Service's professional development program." Park Superintendent John J. Donahue said, "As a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, you will learn about the park's rich natural and cultural resources, help develop the park's education program, present programs for park visitors and have the opportunity to share your experiences with your students and fellow teachers when you return to the classroom."

Man Held On Murder Charge In Lake Mead National Recreation Area Case.

The AP (5/15) reports that "police in Las Vegas say a 54-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after the discovery of what officials believe were human remains encased in concrete in a remote part of Lake Mead National Recreation Area." According to the article, "the concrete and suspected remains were found May 2, covered with a tarp and dirt after park employees noticed a foul smell in a desert area near the Colorado River cliff-jumping site Nelson's Landing."

Name Of Delaware's Only National Park Criticized.

In an op-ed for the Wilmington (DE) News Journal (5/15, Hemphill), Ken

Hemphill, communications coordinator for Neighbors for Crebilly, calls for changing the name of Delaware's only national park. Hemphill says "First State National Historical Park" is "a ten syllable word salad that rolls off the tongue like construction adhesive." He adds that "aside from being an unwieldy name which is confusing, difficult to remember, and frequently misnamed in print, it hardly summons the kinds of associations that other parks' names do."

Joshua Trees' Survival Threatened By Climate Change.

In his column for the Inland Valley (CA) Daily Bulletin (5/15, Elias), Thomas Elias writes that climate change threatens Joshua Tree National Park's namesake trees. Elias is concerned that under the Trump Administration, "the ethereal Joshua trees can expect little help from federal agencies, despite their main habitat's promotion from national monument to national park status in 1994." Elias bemoans that "the current supposed stewards of the national park system and its multitude of plants and animals do not appear serious about that duty, though, as indicated by shutting down their advisory panels or loading them up with representatives of industries that contribute to climate change."

Fish and Wildlife Service

Opponents Want To Prevent Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge From Opening To Public.

The Denver Post (5/15, Aguilar) reports that those opposed to opening the former nuclear weapons manufacturing site Rocky Flats to the public "hope to make their voices heard" at a final "sharing session" on the future of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge on Monday night." Those that oppose public access to the wildlife refuge "say that the 5,000-acre site is not safe and that buried plutonium there could be exposed by burrowing animals or heavy floods," while government officials maintain that testing has shown there is no hazard to visitors. An updated article from the Denver Post (5/15, Aguilar) reports, "For many who turned out Monday...recreation is not suitable for a site that was given over to intensive industrial and military-related activities for four decades." Sandy Pennington, mayor pro tem of Superior asked, "Why are we, in health-conscious Colorado, even entertaining the notion of opening up what was one of the dirtiest sites for radiation for recreational use?"

Additional coverage was provided by the Broomfield (CO) Enterprise (5/15, Brennan), KUSA-TV Denver (CO) Denver (5/15), and KMGH-TV Denver (CO) Denver (5/16, Gelardi).

New Frontline Documentary On Bundy Standoff Shows FBI Agents Posing As Documentary Crew.

The Oregonian (5/15, Turnquist) reports that "the case of Ammon Bundy and the group of followers who staged an armed occupation of the Malheur

National Wildlife Refuge" beginning in January 2016 is "explored again in a new 'Frontline' documentary called 'American Patriot: Inside the Armed Uprising Against the Federal Government,' which airs at 10 p.m. Tuesday, May 16 on PBS." The Oregonian reports that "near the end of 'American Patriot,' we see portions of undercover video filmed by FBI agents who posed as documentary filmmakers in an effort to infiltrate the Bundy family." The Oregonian adds, "As a post on the ['Frontline'](#) (5/15, Ellis) website explains, the FBI began the undercover 'documentary' investigation in 2014, not long after the first standoff in which the Bundys were key players."

Study: Drug Trafficking Destroying Swaths Of Forest In Central America.

The [Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/15, Taylor) reports that "cocaine traffickers attempting to launder their profits are responsible for the disappearance of millions of acres of tropical forest across large swaths of Central America, according to a report." The study, "published on Tuesday in the journal Environmental Research Letters, found that drug trafficking was responsible for up to 30% of annual deforestation in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, turning biodiverse forest into agricultural land." The study's lead author, Dr Steven Sesnie from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, said: "Most of the 'narco-driven' deforestation we identified happened in biodiverse moist forest areas, and around 30-60% of the annual loss happened within established protected areas, threatening conservation efforts to maintain forest carbon sinks, ecological services, and rural and indigenous livelihoods."

Bureau of Land Management

BLM Participating In "Every Kid In A Park" Program.

The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (5/15) reports that "to expose 4th graders across the country to America's public lands," officials with the Bureau of Land Management is participating in the Every Kid in a Park program again. According to the article, "the effort to create the next generation of public land visitors was a big success and is continuing for a second year."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (5/15, Irvin).

Four Colorado Counties Plan Suit Over Greater Sage-grouse Protection.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/16, Webb) reports that "four northwestern Colorado counties plan to sue the federal government over its plan for protecting greater sage-grouse in the state." Garfield County commissioners on Monday "unanimously agreed to lead the litigation effort, which also will involve Rio Blanco, Moffat and Jackson counties." Garfield County is "particularly concerned because of the potential for hindering oil

and gas development."

Wild Horse Populations Increase In Oregon.

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (5/15, Peacher) reports that "new numbers from the Bureau of Land Management show Oregon's wild horse and burro populations are on the rise." According to the article, "there are an estimated 4,351 wild horses and burros on Oregon's rangelands." The figure is "up more than 13 percent from last year's population" and "it's far more than the number of horses the BLM says the rangelands can handle in balance with other public land uses."

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

Over 100 Congress Members Push Back Against Offshore Drilling Review.

[The Hill](#) (5/15, Henry) reports more than 100 members of Congress are pressing the Trump Administration to not open the Atlantic or Pacific for oil and gas drilling as part of the Interior Department's review of offshore policies. The letter said that drilling would harm local economies that rely on fishing and tourism for revenue, which would be threatened by a potential oil spill. The members wrote, "We do not believe that new oil and gas exploration or production activity in the Atlantic and Pacific Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is compatible with the sustainable coastal economies on which so many of our constituents and communities depend."

Panetta Warns Drilling In Arctic Undermines National Security.

[The Hill](#) (5/15, Cama) reports former Secretary of Defense and CIA Director Leon Panetta said President Trump's executive order to expand drilling in the Arctic could threaten national security. Panetta wrote a piece for CNN saying, "It is a fact that expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic would add further stress to the climate, not to mention damage to the area's fragile species and ecosystems. It also would be an invitation to other nations to engage in the same kind of exploitation." Panetta said that drilling in the Arctic could further endanger the global climate, leading to refugee flows and undermining the stability of weak nations.

Onshore Energy Development

Navajo Nation President Promises Deal On Navajo Generating Station.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/16, Randazzo) reports that "dozens of coal miners cheered Monday when Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye told them a deal to keep a coal plant on the reservation running through 2019 would come this week." Speaking "in Phoenix at the first of four public forums on the future of the Navajo Generating Station this week," Begaye "said he and Salt River Project, one of the plant's owners and its operator, have

reached a temporary lease-extension agreement and will announce a deal this week." The agreement "would keep the plant open until 2020, and he hopes to find new owners to run the plant at least another nine years after that. Coal plant threatened with closure."

Additional coverage was provided by [NBC News](#) (5/16, Rainey) and the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (5/15, Allen).

Pence Tells Crow Tribe: "War On Coal Is Over."

[Montana Public Radio](#) (5/15, Yamanaka) reports Vice President Pence told the Crow Tribe on Friday in Montana, "On behalf of the President of the United States I am here to announce the war on coal is over." Crow Tribe Vice Chairman Carlson Goes Ahead told Pence during the visit that the tribe's coal mine is "the lifeblood of the Crow," but he said the recent downturn in the coal market and EPA regulations have hurt their economy. Goes Ahead advocated for the Administration having coal export terminals built on the Pacific Northwest coast to link US coal markets to Asia and for Congress making permanent the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit.

Divestment Campaign Not Impacting Pipeline Financing.

The [Daily Caller](#) (5/15, White) reports that while environmental activists have claimed a "moral victory" with the fact that their divestment campaign has made financial institutions more aware of American Indian rights, developers behind major pipeline projects have not had their funding affected. A handful of firms, along with the city of Seattle, did withdraw funding from the Dakota Access pipeline, but Energy Transfer Partners spokeswoman Vicki Granado said, "We do not have a concern about our current or future financing options."

Standing Rock Protests About Indigenous Religion. Peter B. Campbell writes for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/15, Campbell) saying that the Standing Rock protests center on indigenous religion. Many Native American cultures consider rivers as sacred entities, so the demonstrators at Standing Rock "are not anti-industry protesters, but practitioners of religious elements that may predate Judaism, Christianity, and Islam by centuries." The religious traditions "provide the context for Standing Rock's opposition to the pipeline."

Cloud Computing Could Fix A Management Issue At BLM.

In a piece for [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (5/15, Temin), Tom Temin advises the Bureau of Land Management to turn to cloud computing to help with "a major shortcoming in the agency's management." Namely, the BLM "doesn't keep records of who asks for exceptions to or waivers from regulations on how they mine and drill, nor on what the decision is." According to Temin, "by hosting their tracking application – whether a giant spreadsheet or a real database – in a cloud, BLM officials could establish a framework for uniformity and thoroughness."

Renewable Energy

Offshore Wind Planning Meeting In Falmouth To Be Held Tuesday.

Cape Cod (MA) Today (5/15) reports that the Department of Energy Resources and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center on Tuesday will "host a public informational meeting to provide updates on the emerging offshore wind industry and the development process of federal offshore wind planning areas off Massachusetts." State officials are hosting the meeting together with the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Massachusetts Task Force on Offshore Renewable Energy meeting. BOEM officials will "provide updates on the permitting and leasing process, and offshore wind developers will provide project specific updates."

Empowering Native American Communities

Interior Department Reaffirms View Of Tribes' Third-casino Plan.

The Hartford (CT) Courant (5/15, GOSSELIN) reports that the Interior Department has "reaffirmed guidance issued last year that Connecticut's revenue-sharing agreement with the tribal operators of Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun would not be affected if the tribes partner in a casino off their reservations." In a letter Friday to the chairmen of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, the DOI "said the change in presidential administrations from Barack Obama to Donald Trump does not change the department's position."

Additional coverage was provided by the Connecticut Mirror (5/15, Pazniokas) and the New London (CT) Day (5/15, Hallenbeck).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Marshalls Holds Education Summit.

Marianas Variety (5/15) reports that "a first of its kind, the Kwajalein Atoll Education Summit took place April 26 and 27 on Ebeye Island, Kwajalein Atoll, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands or RMI." The summit was "themed 'Charting our Course: Our Child, Our Hope'" and "funded through Compact of Free Association, as Amended, grant assistance provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs." According to the article, "the summit's aim was to empower local communities, enabling them to begin their children's education at home and continuing in the classroom, leading towards post-secondary and vocational education."

Tackling America's Water Challenges

BOR Announces Safety Of Dams Drilling Program At Prosser Creek Dam.

Hydroworld (5/15, Poindexter) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation "announced on Friday it will perform a Safety of Dams drilling program at Prosser Creek Dam, located just above Prosser Creek's confluence with the Truckee River in Truckee, Calif., to evaluate the ability of the dam to resist large earthquakes." The BOR "said the drilling program will help analyze the potential loss of strength, known as liquefaction that could result in a

dam failure during an extreme earthquake."

Top National News

Administration Rebuts Report Trump Revealed Classified Information To Russians.

Administration officials on Monday night denied a [Washington Post](#) report which began to dominate media coverage after it was posted online earlier that night that says "current and former US officials" indicated President Trump revealed "highly classified information" to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during a White House meeting last week. The Post says the sources said the information "jeopardized a critical source of intelligence on the Islamic State."

Reporting which repeats the facts stated in the Post's story includes the Administration's denial of the allegation and analysis of the potential impact. Some coverage characterizes the development as throwing the Administration into more uncertainty in the aftermath of the President's decision to fire former FBI Director Comey. Jim Sciutto said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/15), "Two former intelligence officials knowledgeable with the situation tell myself and Jake Tapper that the main points of the Washington Post story are accurate."

The [AP](#) (5/15) reports the Post's sources said Trump provided the Russians with details about an ISIS terror threat related to the use of laptop computers on US-bound aircraft. The AP adds the information was given to the US by a partner through an intelligence-sharing arrangement. According to the AP, the information "was considered so sensitive that details have been withheld from allies and tightly restricted even within the US government." The [New York Post](#) (5/15, Fredericks) reports the Post quoted a source as saying, "This is code-word information," which refers to a phrase that describes one of the highest levels of classification used by intelligence agencies. The official added that Trump "revealed more information to the Russian ambassador than we have shared with our own allies." The [New York Daily News](#) (5/15, Joseph) reports Trump "seemed to be bragging about his inside knowledge." An "insider," according to the Daily News, said Trump told Russian officials he "get[s] great intel." The source said the President added that "people brief me on great intel every day."

[McClatchy](#) (5/15, Miller, Jaffe) reports that following the meeting, "senior White House officials took steps to contain the damage, placing calls to the CIA and National Security Agency." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/15) reported that "the CIA and NSA had to play clean up on this to some degree in order to call the intelligence partner and tell them what happened."

Disclosing the information, according to the [New York Times](#) (5/15, A1, Rosenberg, Schmitt), "does not appear to have been illegal" as the President "has the power to declassify almost anything." However, the Times adds that "sharing the information without the express permission of

the ally who provided it represented a major breach of espionage etiquette" and risks "a crucial intelligence-sharing relationship." The Times says the ally that provided the information has provided the US with information in the past "only to see it leaked" and "has repeatedly warned American officials that it would cut off access to such sensitive information if it were shared too widely." US News & World Report (5/15, Levy) reports "national security experts are troubled" by the report "in part because Russia could identify and disrupt the source of the intelligence." On the CBS Evening News (5/15, story 2, 1:30, Pelley), former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell said the revealing of this information is "highly damaging" because Russia "could well disrupt the source" and "countries who provide the United States with intelligence information will now have pause to do so."

CNN's Situation Room (5/15) reported that the White House press office released a statement denying the report and the Washington Times (5/15, Boyer) says National Security Adviser McMaster and Secretary of State Tillerson "pushed back against" the Post's story. McMaster, the Wall Street Journal (5/15, Stokols, Ballhaus) says, told reporters the Post report was "false." Reuters (5/15, Mason, Zengerle) reports McMaster added that Trump and Lavrov "reviewed common threats from terrorist organizations to include threats to aviation." McMaster continued, "At no time were any intelligence sources or methods discussed and no military operations were disclosed that were not already known publicly." McMaster, according to The Hill (5/15, Williams, Fabian), said "two other senior officials" including Tillerson were present during the talks and "remember the meeting the same way and have said so." McMaster added, "Their on-the-record accounts should outweigh those of anonymous sources."

The Washington Examiner (5/15, Giaritelli) reports Tillerson said in a statement that the meeting included discussions on "a broad range of subjects," including "common efforts and threats regarding counter-terrorism." Bloomberg Politics (5/15, Sink, Kapur) quotes Tillerson as saying in the statement, "During that exchange the nature of specific threats were discussed, but they did not discuss sources, methods or military operations." Politico (5/15, Staff) reports Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategy Dina Powell said in a statement that the Post story "is false." Powell added, "The president only discussed the common threats that both countries faced."

Both Republican, Democratic Lawmakers Express Concern. ABC World News Tonight (5/15, story 2, 0:55, Muir) reported "members on both sides of the aisle" expressed serious concern about the report if true, with some calling it "troubling," "disturbing," and "shocking." USA Today (5/15, Estepa) reports Sen. Bob Corker said, "To compromise a source is something that you just don't do," adding, "That's why we keep the information that we get from intelligence sources so close...to prevent that from happening." The Los Angeles Times (5/15, Mascaro) quotes Sen. Richard Durbin as saying, "This conduct by the president is not only

dangerous, it's reckless." Durbin added, "That disclosure may not only jeopardize our troops and our people, but the security of those who risk their lives to tell us what is actually happening." NBC Nightly News (5/15, lead story, 2:25, Holt) showed Sen. John McCain saying, "It's disturbing and let's find out what the details are and whether or not it happened. We just have an initial report so it's very difficult to comment until we get all the facts." Sen. Lindsey Graham said, "I don't know if it's accurate. It'd be troubling. I have no idea."

Politico (5/15, Wright) reports under the headline "Republicans concerned about report Trump shared secrets with Russia" that House Speaker Ryan's spokesman "also expressed concern about the Post report." Doug Andres the spokesman said, "We have no way to know what was said, but protecting our nation's secrets is paramount. The speaker hopes for a full explanation of the facts from the administration." Amber Phillips writes for the Washington Post (5/15) that Ryan may "regret" his critical comments about Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. Phillips says Ryan and other Republicans will have to "explain" how this situation "is somehow less careless and less reckless and less dangerous than the one they lambasted Democrats for just a few months ago."

The Washington Post (5/15, Viebeck, Debonis, O'Keefe) quotes Senate Minority Leader Schumer as saying in a statement, "Revealing classified information at this level is extremely dangerous and puts at risk the lives of Americans and those who gather intelligence for our country. The President owes the intelligence community, the American people, and Congress a full explanation." House Minority Leader Pelosi said during a previously scheduled town hall meeting on CNN (5/15) that it "is a very serious matter." Later in the town hall, Pelosi said, "There's just something wrong with this picture. All at the same time as people are saying this you have to be careful because this is its own incident but it's about Russia. And every day I ask the question, what do the Russians have on Donald Trump, financially, politically or personally that he is always catering to them?"

Sen. Patrick Leahy told CNN's Situation Room (5/15) that "it would be almost inconceivable, that any President would allow something of that nature out, anything that would disclose sources and methods." He also said "there are bigger questions here and that is, what is the influence of Russia." Rep. Eric Swalwell said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (5/15) that "the President is alleged to have given classified information to a foreign adversary." Swalwell said he "would ask that why were the Russians even in the Oval Office after the attack they carried out." He said he hopes "that the Administration comes to Congress this week, particularly to our committee, and updates us as to exactly what was revealed. And is this a change in policy on how we communicate with Russians." Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on CNN's Out Front (5/15), "What needs to happen is for a full explanation from President Trump. He

owes the American people an explanation, not just a flat denial, which is really a nondenial that fails to address the details of this story." Blumenthal added that "the truth needs to be uncovered and anyone responsible for this violation of the norms, if not the law of intelligence, has to be held accountable."

Still, some lawmakers and media defended Trump or said more information is needed. Sen. Ben Sasse said on Fox News The Story (5/15) that "a lot of the media will hyperventilate really quickly and there is the distinction that we should bear in mind between illegality and imprudence. Really difficult for a president to do something illegal in a space like this because he as commander of chief in the military, is the ultimate declassifier. That's a different question as to whether or not something is imprudent."

Catherine Herridge said on Fox News' Special Report (5/15) "that if Russia is a partner in the fight against the Islamic State, it's not clear how much of a breach it would be." Britt Hume also said at Fox News' Special Report (5/15) that the story is "based entirely on anonymous sources." He said this disclosure "may have offended our intelligence partner, but that does not mean sensitive sources and methods have been disclosed." Martha McCallum said on Fox News The Story (5/15), "This is sort of the next narrative that you would want to employ, right? If you are trying to take this President down or make him look bad, it's bad enough that the pictures, the only pictures from this meeting were taken from Russian media. Now, the story is that he was in there revealing intelligence that he should not have been revealing."

The Daily Beast (5/15, Markay, Mak, Suebsaeng, Winter) reports White House and Administration officials "are reeling at reports" that Trump revealed classified information to Russia. A "senior Trump aide," according to the Daily Beast, said communications staff and senior staffers "were literally 'hiding in offices'" as White House press officials entered the hallways after the Post story broke. A "senior aide" said, "Do not ask me about how this looks, we all know how this looks." Kirsten Powers of USA Today said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (5/15) that "we have different controversies with Donald Trump, and sometimes people will think, 'Well, this is the worst thing that's ever happened.' This is the worst, right here, by far. The reason that it's the worst, is because he's put people's lives in jeopardy. In the immediate and in the long-term because when you think about this, not only has he harmed relationships currently, you have to wonder what any other ally is going to think about in the future in terms of working with us."

Media Analyses: Administration "Reeling" After "Latest Episodes."
Politico (5/15, Dawsey, Johnson) says the "latest episodes" within the Administration the reported revealing of classified information and Comey's firing "reveal what senior aides and advisers privately say: The problems often come from the top." A White House official said by text message, "It never stops. Basically chaos at all times." Gloria Borger said

on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (5/15) that "this goes to a larger question...which is the question of the competency of the President. I think you hear a lot of people whispering about it here in Washington and I think now they're starting to talk about it out loud because if you have a President who doesn't know how to handle or talk about highly classified information to one of our adversaries, there is a problem."

In the Washington Post (5/15), Aaron Blake writes "hubris and rank amateurism are killing President Trump when it comes to his Russia problem." Blake says Trump "made the very questionable decision to meet with top Russian officials a day after making the very questionable decision to fire the man leading the FBI's Russia investigation." Blake adds that sharing intelligence with Russia "that isn't even being shared with allies is a big blunder." Blake argues, "It's a series of tightly packed-together errors that can only be accomplished with an extraordinary amount of ego and a lack of a better angel."

Media Connects Report To Trump's Criticism Of Clinton's Use Of Private Email Server. According to CNN's Situation Room (5/15), the report "is going to recall all sorts of questions and flashbacks to the campaign of last year when the President time and again hammered Hillary Clinton, accusing her of revealing classified information through her private e-mail practices." The CBS Evening News (5/15, lead story, 2:30, Pelley) reported Trump's "relentless criticism of Hillary Clinton's handling of classified information may be the main reason that he's President today." Philip Bump writes in the Washington Post (5/15) that "the sticking point for conservative critiques of Clinton's behavior was that her use of a private server included the transmission of classified information," which placed the "information at risk of being intercepted by foreign agents, should her server have been compromised."

Phillips: Trump Has "Track Record" Of Upsetting Intelligence Professionals. Amber Phillips writes for the Washington Post (5/15) that Trump "has had a track record of questioning, worrying, and even directly upsetting, the thousands of men and women who collect and analyze the nation's top secrets." Phillips provides a "rundown" of these instances.

Both Parties Press White House For Answers On Possible Recordings Of Conversations.

While it was eclipsed by the breaking news regarding President Trump's possible disclosing of intelligence to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, coverage of the aftermath of Trump's firing of FBI Director Comey, and on whether the President possesses recordings of his conversations with Comey, continues, with members of both parties pressing the White House for answers and threatening subpoenas. Trump also said Monday that the search for Comey's replacement is proceeding "rapidly."

A_ rl e Tonight (5/15, story 3, 3:10, Muir) reported, "Republicans and Democrats are now demanding to know: Are

conversations being recorded with the President? And if so, they now want them." ABC's Jonathan Karl: "The White House is defying congressional demands for answers on whether the President has been secretly recording his conversations." Senate Minority Leader Schumer: "If there are tapes as the President has suggested, he should turn them over immediately." Karl: "Even Republicans are saying if there are tapes, they need to be preserved and turned over." Sen. Lindsey Graham: "You can't be cute about tapes. If there are any tapes of this conversation, they need to be turned over." Sen. Mike Lee: "If, in fact, there are such recordings, I think those recordings will be subpoenaed, and I think they will probably have to turn them over." Karl: "But the White House is refusing to answer any questions on this whatsoever."

On the CBS Evening News (5/15, story 3, 1:50, Pelley), Major Garrett reported, "The White House will not confirm or deny President Trump tape records his conversations. Press secretary Sean Spicer has only one thing to say." Spicer: "I made it clear what the President's position is on that issue." Garrett: "But the President has made nothing clear." Trump: "That I can't talk about. I won't talk about that." USA Today (5/15, Jackson) also says that "the president's actual position is not that clear," and "senators who are seeking more details about Comey's dismissal say that Trump must preserve and turn over tapes, if they exist. Former associates are also saying that the real estate mogul does have a history of taping his conversations." The New York Daily News (5/15, Joseph) reports that Spicer "stonewall[ed] questions about whether Trump taped" Comey.

Fox News Special Report (5/15) reported that some Republicans have joined the call for a special prosecutor "and some Democrats have upped the ante, warning they won't consider Comey's replacement unless and until a special prosecutor is in place," and CNN's Situation Room (5/15) reported that lawmakers from both parties "are making it clear any...recordings could be subpoenaed." But the Washington Post (5/15, Phillips) writes that "almost no one in Congress seems willing to take that step. ... Issuing a subpoena is a serious thing, and it requires both Democrats and Republicans to agree to it." So far, Lee "appears to be the only Senate Republican open to a subpoena."

Sen. Chris Coons was asked on CNN's Situation Room (5/15) if he believes the tapes exist. Coons said, "I don't know. This is yet another bombshell thrown into this conversation by President Trump. He was known to have widely taped conversations when he was a businessman." Coons added that if they exist, the tapes "would be subject to subpoena because they would be critical to what is now an ongoing investigation both a counterintelligence and criminal investigation by the FBI."

Meanwhile, the Washington Times (5/15, Miller) reports that Spicer defended Trump's firing of Comey on Monday, "saying he did it despite the political peril it created for himself because it was the 'right thing for the American people.'" Spicer said, "The actions that he took he knew could be

detrimental unto himself. But none of those things mattered because the President had to do the right thing for the American people, because he believes Jim Comey is the wrong man for that position." Politico (5/15, McCaskill) reports, "In Spicer's telling, Trump also said 'he didn't care that this action would make matters worse for him, that it, quote, might even lengthen out the investigation because he would take action against Jim Comey in firing him.'" However, the Washington Post (5/15, Blake) reports that a poll taken after the firing "shows Americans now see the FBI more positively than they have at any point since at least 1995." Gerald Seib writes in his Wall Street Journal (5/15) column that Trump seems to be seeking out controversy, and it is imperiling his agenda.

In a USA Today (5/15) op-ed, Brian Klaas of the London School of Economics and Political Science compares Trump's firing of Comey to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 2014 firing of "four prosecutors who were leading an investigation into an alleged corruption scandal involving the president himself. ... It's hard not to see parallels with President Trump's decision to fire" Comey. Trump "behaved like a strongman. The only open question is whether the democratic institutions of the United States will fight back in a way they were unable to in Turkey."

USA Today (5/15, Johnson, Jackson) reports that Trump's dinner with Comey early in his term broke with precedent, and Comey was "uncomfortable with the arrangement. ... Trump's actions call into question his regard for an independent FBI and may be a sign of how he intends to select a new leader of the federal government's premier law enforcement agency, which is in the middle of a growing Russia investigation." Reuters (5/15, Kahn) reports that a new Reuters/Ipsos poll finds that "59 percent of adults, including 41 percent of Republicans and 79 percent of Democrats," want an independent investigation of "communications between the Russian government and the Trump campaign during the 2016 election."

Callum Borchers writes in the Washington Post (5/15) that "as the president and his surrogates and supporters contend that any notion of a Russian connection is a media creation, it is worth remembering that people in the same positions said the same thing about Watergate more than four decades ago." While that "does not mean we are in the midst of a Watergate-level scandal," it is "illogical to assume that because no hard evidence of collusion has been made public, none must exist." Philip Bump of the Washington Post (5/15) writes that it took some time for Watergate to permeate – as late as August 1973, majority of Americans "felt that the Senate hearings were hurting the country."

The Washington Times (5/15, Dinan, Persons) reports that Rep. Al Green (D-TX) called for Trump's impeachment on Monday, saying, "President Trump is not above the law. He has committed an impeachable act and must be charged. To do otherwise would cause some Americans to lose respect for, and obedience to, our societal norms."

Republican strategist Ana Navarro said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/15) that Republicans "have fallen prey to a Donald Trump cult. They are ceding their loyalty not to the Constitution, not to the country, not to their constituents, but to this president of their party but who wasn't even a Republican until a few years ago."

Rosenstein To Brief All Senators Thursday. [USA Today](#) (5/15, Gaudiano) reports that Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein will brief all senators on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. about the Comey firing. Schumer said in a statement, "I hope that senators from both sides of the aisle will use this opportunity to seek the full truth regarding Director Comey's firing, to press the Deputy Attorney General to make way for a special prosecutor, and to ensure the Administration will preserve and make public any audio recordings of conversations between the President and the former director."

Karen Tumulty said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/15) that "for this investigation to have any kind of credibility, it probably needs to be taken out of the hands of anyone who was involved in James Comey's firing and that's why I think one event to watch very, very carefully this week is what happens when the Deputy Attorney General goes up to Capitol Hill and has this all senators briefing because he's probably going to argue that the Department [of Justice] has the resources to conduct this investigation, and he's probably going to get his ears pinned back by a lot of senators."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/15, Sullivan) reports, "Plans for the briefing come as Democrats and some Republicans have been raising questions and concerns" about the firing. [The Hill](#) (5/15, Easley) says that "the White House's changing story on the role Rosenstein's memo played in Comey's firing has become central to the controversy and reportedly drove Rosenstein to threaten to resign – a claim he denies." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/15, Wilber, Andrews) and the [Washington Times](#) (5/15, Dinan) briefly report on the upcoming briefing, while [Politico](#) (5/15, Caygle) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi is calling on the House leadership to schedule a similar briefing.

Trump Says FBI Director Search "Moving Rapidly"; Gowdy Withdraws From Consideration. [Reuters](#) (5/15) reports in a brief item that Trump told reporters Monday that his search for a new FBI director is "moving rapidly." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/15, Strohm, Sink) reports that eight candidates are said to be under consideration: Senate Majority Whip Cornyn, ex-DOJ official Alice Fisher, ex-Manhattan US attorney Michael Garcia, Richmond FBI Special Agent in Charge Adam Lee, US District Court Judge Henry Hudson, Acting FBI Director McCabe, ex-Rep. Mike Rogers, and George W. Bush Administration homeland security adviser Fran Townsend. Attorney General Sessions and Rosenstein met with the eight over the weekend, "and no more interviews are currently scheduled," according to an official. However, an [AP](#) (5/15, Colvin, Thomas) list of "candidates under consideration to replace" Comey adds six more names: senior FBI official Paul Abbate, Rep. Trey Gowdy, ex-NYPD commissioner

Ray Kelly, Boeing general counsel J. Michael Luttig, ex-Colorado attorney general John Suthers, and George W. Bush Administration deputy attorney general Larry Thompson.

Reuters (5/15) reports that Gowdy has removed himself from consideration. The Washington Times (5/15, Dinan) reports that in a conversation with Sessions, "I shared with him two things: (1) the qualities I believe are indispensable for our next FBI Director to possess, and (2) my firm conviction that I would not be the right person. I greatly appreciate the Attorney General speaking with me and respecting my decision and I wish him wisdom as he interviews potential candidates." USA Today (5/15, Collins) had prepared a profile of Gowdy that was updated after he withdrew from consideration.

As for Cornyn, Politico (5/15, Kim, Everett) reports that "Senate Republicans love" him, "but not all of them are sold on him being the next FBI director. ... With Trump's sacking of James Comey still reverberating on Capitol Hill, some Republicans want to make sure that the next FBI director is highly credentialed, unimpeachable and completely apolitical." The Washington Post (5/15, Demirjian, Sullivan, O'Keefe) also says that "led by" Senate Majority Leader McConnell, "a chorus of GOP senators has signaled that they would prefer President Trump to nominate somebody other" than Cornyn, "despite his status as a well-liked and influential figure on Capitol Hill." The Washington Post (5/15) says in an editorial that there is a "need for a new FBI director who is universally recognized as credible and above partisanship. No matter what you think of their past or current service, that list would not include several politicians reportedly under consideration for the job," such as Cornyn, Gowdy, or Rogers.

Supreme Court Will Not Hear Appeal Of North Carolina Voting Law.

The Washington Post (5/15, Barnes) reports that the Supreme Court said on Monday that it "will not consider reinstating North Carolina's 2013 voting law that a lower court ruled discriminated against African American voters." The Post notes that "a unanimous panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit had found in 2016 that North Carolina legislators had acted 'with almost surgical precision' to blunt the influence of African American voters." Chief Justice John Roberts "took pains to note that the court's decision did not reach the merits of the case, but Democrats, civil rights groups and minority groups celebrated the demise of the law," which was "one of numerous voting rights changes passed by Republican-led legislatures in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2013 decision striking down a key section of the Voting Rights Act that effectively removed federal oversight of states with a history of discrimination."

The Wall Street Journal (5/15, Kendall) reports that in a statement on Monday, Chief Justice Roberts wrote of the "blizzard of filings over who is and who is not authorized to seek review in this court under North Carolina law," and he made clear that the court's refusal to consider the appeal was

"no expression of opinion upon the merits of the case."

The [New York Times](#) (5/15, Liptak, Wines) reports that "the leaders of North Carolina's Republican-controlled Legislature seized on" Chief Justice Robert's statement on Monday, "all but stating that they would seek to enact new voting restrictions after their defeat. 'All North Carolinians can rest assured that Republican legislators will continue fighting to protect the integrity of our elections by implementing the common sense requirement to show a photo ID when we vote,' House Speaker Tim Moore and Phil Berger, the president pro tempore of the North Carolina Senate, said in a statement." Attorney Daniel T. Donovan, representing plaintiffs who challenged the law, "noted that the appeals court had struck down the state's voter-ID requirement as baldly discriminatory. 'It'll be pretty interesting to see how they can do it without having a discriminatory effect on minority voters,' he said. 'They'd have real issues if they come anywhere close' to the provisions that the appeals court struck down."

[Reuters](#) (5/15, Hurley) reports that North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, who took office in January and had asked the court not to consider the appeal, said in a statement, "Today's announcement is good news for North Carolina voters. We need to be making it easier to vote, not harder."

[USA Today](#) (5/15, Wolf) reports that the court "denied the state's case in part because North Carolina's government changed hands in November, and the new Democratic governor does not support the law, championed by his Republican predecessor." The case "dates back to an array of voting restrictions enacted in 2013, immediately after the Supreme Court in a landmark case freed mostly Southern states with a history of voting discrimination from pre-clearing election law changes with the federal government." Citing "the inextricable link between race and politics in North Carolina," a three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals "ruled in July that state lawmakers intentionally imposed the restrictions to make it more difficult for blacks to vote."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/15, Savage) reports that the North Carolina law "made five changes, including restricting early voting, which had been used more often by African American voters, and by requiring registered voters to show one of several photo ID cards at the polls." The appeals court "noted the state had chosen the types of photo IDs that were less likely to be held by African Americans." Then-Gov. Pat McCrory "slammed the decision and lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court," and last year, "four of the high court's conservative justices had signaled they were prepared to block the lower court ruling and revive the law." The Times notes that "they then lacked a fifth vote due to the vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia," but "the situation changed in November when the state's voters ousted McCrory and narrowly elected" Cooper, who, along with the state's attorney general, "recently told the high court they did not wish to appeal the lower court's ruling."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/15, McLaughlin) reports that Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez on Monday "celebrated the

Supreme Court's refusal to reinstate North Carolina's voter ID law, calling it a 'huge victory for voters and a massive blow to Republicans trying to restrict access to the ballot, especially in communities of color.' 'Across the country, the GOP has rammed through laws like this one to make it harder, not easier, for Americans to exercise their constitutional right to vote,'" Perez said on a statement.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Trump's Fraudulent Voter-Fraud Commission." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/15) writes that President Trump's establishment of an advisory commission to "enhance the American people's confidence in the integrity of the voting processes" amounts to "commandeer[ing] the machinery of the federal government to justify his own falsehoods." Based on the results of "study after study," the Times insists: "Voting fraud is extremely rare, and in-person fraud – the only kind that would be caught by voter ID laws – is essentially nonexistent." Moreover, "voters' confidence is mainly affected by whether their preferred candidate wins," according to the Times, so voter ID laws wouldn't restore voter confidence. Instead, the Administration should implement "real reforms": improved technology, expanded early-voting opportunities, and better-trained poll workers.

"Agreements That Lock Up Workers, Legally." In an editorial, the New York Times (5/16, Board) writes that "the economy thrives when businesses compete with each other for workers and customers. That is hardly a new idea, but it bears repeating as companies increasingly use noncompete agreements." The Times argues that "such morally dubious practices harm the economy," and urges "all elected leaders, especially those like President Trump who claim to represent the interests of working people, need to fight such unfair and unjust practices."

"Muscovites Fight For A Slum Of Their Own." A New York Times (5/16) editorial says that "on the face of it, anyone living in one of the ubiquitous five-story tenements ringing central Moscow should be happy to move out," but "when Moscow's municipal government offered residents equivalent apartments in modern buildings farther from town so that thousands of the tenements could be razed, they promptly took to the streets." The project was "initially endorsed" by President Vladimir Putin, "who assumed that offering residents an upgrade to a modern apartment would be hugely popular," but he "promptly changed sides and declared that he would sign nothing that violated the right of private property."

Washington Post.

"The FBI Needs A Nonpartisan Director." Washington Post (5/15) says in an editorial that there is a "need for a new FBI director who is universally recognized as credible and above partisanship. No matter what you think of their past or current service, that list would not include several

politicians reportedly under consideration for the job," such as Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn, Rep. Trey Gowdy, or former Rep. Mike Rogers.

"China Has A Plan To Become A Global Superpower. It Probably Won't Work" The Washington Post (5/15) editorializes that the Belt and Road initiative – which amounts to China's "plan to become a global superpower" – will likely fall short of its aims due to the proposal's "top-down, autocratic nature" and China's "self-interested structuring of the projects." So, while it has been compared to the Marshall Plan, the Post says the Belt and Road initiative "is likely to be hamstrung precisely by its differences from the Marshall Plan": "there is nothing democratic or transparent about the Chinese initiative."

"Trump's China Trade Deal Is Underwhelming." In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/15) writes that to call Commerce Secretary Ross' labeling of the Administration's trade deal with China as "the first real breakthrough that we've had...in decades" an "overstatement would be an understatement." If fully implemented, the deal "would provide a few billion dollars' worth of business for relatively pro-Trump constituencies," but in fact China "would be doing little more than reversing a scientifically obsolete 13-year-old ban on US beef and obeying a five-year-old World Trade Organization." Meanwhile, the agreement fails even to make a reference to reducing the US' trade deficit, America's "most legitimate complaint regarding Chinese industrial mercantilism." The Post says the Administration's bilateral approach to trade deal negotiation – "which this plan epitomizes" – is "economically irrational and plays to state capitalist China's strengths."

Wall Street Journal.

"Puerto Rico's Debt Lessons." The Wall Street Journal (5/15) editorializes that while regrettable, the legal proceedings of Puerto Rico's bankruptcy proceedings set to begin this week may have two positive results: government reform on the island and creditors learning that sovereign debt to unstable governments and spendthrift politicians is always high risk. However, the commonwealth's recovery also will depend on more robust economic growth as facilitated by labor-market deregulation.

"Merkel's Election Rally." The Wall Street Journal (5/15) in an editorial says that local German elections indicate Chancellor Angela Merkel and the CDU/CSU coalition is ready to win re-election in September, but that she and her coalition do not have a reform agenda and will not have a mandate if they are reelected. The Journal is pleased by the strong backing the Free Democrats (FDP) received in local elections, and hopes it can succeed in returning to the Bundestag and selling its plans for tax-cuts and economic reform to its traditional coalition partners the CDU/CSU.

"The 'WannaCry' Cyber Warning." A Wall Street Journal (5/15) editorial casts the "WannaCry" ransomware attack as a warning about the world's vulnerability to hackers and digital terrorists and argues that US must

bolster its cyberdefenses or the damage from the next attack will be worse.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Gulf States Offer Better Relations If Israel Makes New Bid For Peace](#)
[Experts Look To Find Out How Ransomware Invaded Networks](#)
[Uber Ordered To Return Documents In Self-Driving Fight With Waymo](#)
[Can Trump Deliver 3% Growth? Stubborn Realities Stand In The Way](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Revealed Highly Classified Intelligence To Russia, In Break With Ally, Officials Say](#)
[In Computer Attacks, Clues Point To Frequent Culprit: North Korea](#)
[As Nationwide Gangs Fracture, Bullets Fly In New York](#)
[Syrian Crematory Is Hiding Mass Killings Of Prisoners, US Says](#)
[Strict North Carolina Voter ID Law Thwarted After Supreme Court Rejects Case](#)
[A Whistle-Blower Tells Of Health Insurers Bilking Medicare](#)

Washington Post:

[Syria Using Crematorium At Prison, US Charges](#)
[High Court Shuts Door On NC Voter Law](#)
[Trump Reveals Secret Information To Russians](#)
[To Broaden Appeal, Europe's Far Right Tries To Alter Image](#)
[Va. Race To Be A Big Early Test Of Trump's Populist Message](#)

Financial Times:

[Russia And Saudi Arabia Back Extending Oil Output Cuts](#)
[Hackers Prime Second Classified US Cyber Weapon](#)
[Kenya Leader Urges Rebalance Of China-Africa Trade](#)
[Macron Names Centre-Right MP As Prime Minister](#)

Washington Times:

[Michael Flynn Caught Up In Washington's Messiest Legal Drama In Decades](#)
[Trump Cuts All Health Care Aid To International Groups Performing Or Promoting Abortion](#)
[Liberal Activists Looking To 2020 See Warren As Rightful Heir To Sanders Movement](#)
[Factory Wages Too Low To Generate Rust Belt Renaissance Promised By Trump, Study Finds](#)
[California Bookstores Strike Back At Mark Hamill's Law Cracking Down On Fake Autographs](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; Trump Russia Meeting-Congress; FBI Director Comey Fired; New Jersey-Plane Crash; Syrian Civil

War; Global Cyber Attack-Ransomware; North Korea-Missile Test; Maryland-Bus Crash; Connecticut-Police Shooting; Ohio-House Fire; Ohio-Police Accidental Overdose; Powers Boothe Dies; British WW2 Veteran Skydiving.

CBS: Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; Trump Russia Meeting-Expert Comment; FBI Director Comey Fired-WH; Global Cyber Attack-Ransomware; Global Cyber Attack-Microsoft; Syrian Civil War; North Korea-Missile Test; New Jersey-Plane Crash; Maryland-Bus Crash; Penn State Frat Death; LAX-Reorganization.

NBC: Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; Global Cyber Attack-Ransomware; North Korea-Missile Test; New Jersey-Plane Crash; Penn State Frat Death; Caffeine Overdose Teen Death; Confederate Statue Removal; Delta-New Bag Check Technology; College Football-Academic Honors.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy 9 minutes, 20 seconds
 Global Cyber Attack-Ransomware 9 minutes, 5 seconds
 FBI Director Comey Fired 5 minutes
 New Jersey-Plane Crash 4 minutes, 10 seconds
 Syrian Civil War 4 minutes
 North Korea-Missile Test 3 minutes, 50 seconds
 Maryland-Bus Crash 1 minute, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; North Carolina-Voter ID Law; Wall Street News.

CBS: Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; Global Cyber Attack-Ransomware; Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Caffeine Overdose Teen Death.

FOX: Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; Syrian Civil War; North Korea-Missile Test.

NPR: Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; Syrian Civil War; Global Cyber Attack-Ransomware; New Jersey-Plane Crash; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP Will speak with King Abdullah II of Jordan by telephone; meets with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey; meets with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE Joins the President to participate in a working luncheon with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey; hosts an Indiana Fraternal Order of Police Reception.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on chronic care

Hearing on 'Examining Bipartisan Medicare Policies that Improve Care for Patients with Chronic Conditions', with testimony from bipartisan Sens. Brian Schatz and Roger Wicker; Bipartisan Policy Center Director of Health Policy Katherine Hayes; Harvard Medical School Professor of Neurology Dr Lee Schwamm (on behalf of American Heart Association/American Stroke Association); UPMC for You President John Lovelace; and Montefiore Health System Senior Vice President for Population Health Management Stephen Rosenthal Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee nominations hearing
Nominations hearing considers Sigal Mandelker to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Crimes; Mira Radielovic Ricardel to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration; Marshall Billingslea to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing; and Heath Tarbert to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Business Meeting
Location: S-216, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

1:30 PM U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos, hosted by Members of Congress and the Center for Public Policy Analysis (CPPA), to discuss human rights, religious freedom, and Lao Hmong refugee and veterans issues, and to memorialize 'the persecuted victims of communism in Laos, including disappeared civil society leader Sombath Somphone, and others, who have been persecuted, disappeared, or killed in Laos as religious or political dissidents'. Speakers include Democrats Sens. Amy Klobuchar, Tammy Baldwin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Al Franken, and Jack Reed and Rep. Jim Costa, Republicans Sens. Lisa Murkowski and John Boozman and Rep. Devin Nunes, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's Tina Mufford, Amnesty International's T. Kumar, Minnesota Lao Veterans of America President Pang Mang Thao, Lao Veterans of America Institute of California's Peter Vang, and CPPA Executive Director Philip Smith, others Location: SVC-215, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC centerforpublicpolicyanalysis.org <https://twitter.com/CPPIAInfo>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:15 PM Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee hearing on 'Leveraging Federal Funding; Innovative Solutions for Infrastructure'
Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

US House: 8:30 AM Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors Annual Meeting Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors Annual Meeting. Speakers include Republican Rep. Barbara Comstock, Eno Center for Transportation Senior Fellow and Editor Jeff Davis, SIFMA Managing Director Michael Decker, CAGTC Chairman Tim Lovain * Day two

is open to members only and takes place at Hall of States Location: Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://www.trade corridors.org/> <https://twitter.com/CAGTC>

9:00 AM Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing' Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

[www.democraticwhip.gov/](http://democraticwhip.gov/) <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

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<https://twitter.com/CPPIAInfo>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 510 Rapid DNA Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1428 American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 1616 Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.R. 1892 Honoring Hometown Heroes Act' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

3:00 PM East West Center in Washington launches 'ASEAN Matters for America / America Matters for ASEAN' East West Center in Washington, in partnership with US-ASEAN Business Council, ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, Congressional Singapore Caucus, and Congressional Caucus on ASEAN, hosts launch of 'ASEAN Matters for America / America Matters for ASEAN' a publication and web resource for 'credible and nonpartisan information, graphics, analysis, and news at the national, state, and local level on U.S.-Southeast Asia interactions' via briefing held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN and the 40th anniversary

of the U.S.-ASEAN partnership. Speakers/participants include Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeast Asia Patricia Mahoney, Congressional Singapore Caucus Co-Chair Democratic Rep. Denny Heck, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Chip Gregson, Jr., Coca-Cola Washington, DC, Office Group Director Kate Irvin, US-ASEAN Business Council President Alex Feldman, and East-West Center in Washington Director Dr Satu Limaye Location: HVC 201, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/ewc-in-washington>
<https://twitter.com/EastWestCenter>

4:00 PM Bipartisan Heroin Task Force hosts roundtable on response to synthetic opioids Bipartisan Heroin Task Force hosts roundtable on synthetic opioids, led by co-chairs Reps. Annie Kuster and Tom MacArthur, focusing on how law enforcement battles the synthetic opioid crisis. Panel of experts include DEA's Diversion Division Deputy Assistant Administrator Neil Doherty, Homeland Security Investigations Deputy Executive Associate Director Derek Benner, and Toms River, NJ, Police Department Chief Mitchell Little Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC kuster.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepAnnieKuster>

4:30 PM 'Iran's Election Briefing' on Capitol Hill Organization of Iranian-American Communities 'Iran's Election Briefing' panel discussion, featuring bipartisan Members of Congress and Iran experts Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.oiac.org
<https://twitter.com/OrgIAC>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing Hearing on 'H.R. 1039, the Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:30 AM GOP Rep. Virginia Foxx speaks at AEI on career and technical education programs House Education and Workforce Committee Chairwoman Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx speaks at the American Enterprise Institute on 'The opportunities of career and technical education', discussion how programs can provide promising opportunities to American students and help develop necessary skills for an evolving workforce Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

9:00 AM Inter-American Dialogue discussion on 'Violence in the Caribbean & What Can be Done' 'Violence in the Caribbean & What Can be Done' Inter-American Dialogue discussion, with Inter-American Development Bank Citizen Security Area Study Coordinator and Researcher Heather Sutton, Democratic Rep. Stacey Plaskett, and Citizens Crime Commission of New York City President Richard Aborn Location: Inter-American Dialogue, 1155 15th St NW, Washington, DC
www.thedialogue.org [#CaribbeanViolence](https://twitter.com/The_Dialogue)

11:30 AM Independent Women's Forum Women LEAD Summit

Independent Women's Forum Women LEAD Summit, with speakers including Republican Sen. Deb Fischer and former Rep. Nan Hayworth
 Location: Decatur House, Washington, DC www.womenleadsummit.com
[#womenLEAD](https://twitter.com/IWF)

12:00 PM FCC Chairman Ajit Pai speaks at CEI on 'Internet Freedom, Regulation and Congress' 'Internet Freedom, Regulation, and Congress' Competitive Enterprise Institute discussion with Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, CEI President and CEO Kent Lassman, CEI Policy Counsel Ryan Radia, George Mason University Mercatus Center Research Fellow Brent Skorup, and International Center for Law and Economics Executive Director Geoffrey Manne Location: Rm 485, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.cei.org
<https://twitter.com/ceidotorg>

12:30 PM In Defense of Christians Capitol Hill briefing on safe zones in Syria and stability in the Middle East In Defense of Christians hosts Capitol Hill briefing on safe zones in Syria and stability in the Middle East, featuring bipartisan Reps. Darin LaHood and Marcy Kaptur (invited), The Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Fabrice Balanche, and Institute for the Study of War's Chris Harmer Location: Rm 340, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.indefenseofchristians.org
<https://twitter.com/indefchristians>

6:00 PM Dem Sen. Cory Booker keynotes APAICS 23rd Annual Gala Awards Dinner Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies 23rd Annual Gala Awards Dinner, celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders. Democratic Sen. Cory Booker is keynote speaker, with honorees including Thai Community Development Center Founder and Executive Director Chantee Martorrell (Community Leadership Award), actor and comedian Randall Park (Vision Award) and Verizon (Corporate Achievement Award). CBSN News Correspondent Elaine Quijano emcees Location: Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.apaics.org/> <https://twitter.com/APAICS>

6:00 PM National Women's History Museum annual 'Women Making History DC' gala honors Laura Bush National Women's History Museum annual 'Women Making History DC' gala, recognizing 'a select group of women who have made significant contributions to their field and serve as inspiration to women everywhere'. 2017 honorees are former First Lady Laura Bush, with a video tribute by Hillary Clinton followed by a discussion with 'Meet the Press' moderator Chuck Todd; former U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios, former NASA Administrator Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Charles Bolden; Women in Military Service for America Memorial Founding President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Wilma Vaught; former radio talk show host Diane Rehm; and radiologist and professor Faye Laing. Journalist and author Cokie Roberts emcees Location: Carnegie Institution for Science, 1530 P St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nwhm.org/>
<https://twitter.com/womenshistory>

6:30 PM Dem Rep. Charles Schumer attends Center for American Progress hosts Progressive Party Center for American Progress and Center for American Progress Action Fund host the Progressive Party CAP's annual gala, which welcomes supporters and allies to 'celebrate shared accomplishments and discuss big ideas around work towards a promising, progressive agenda on behalf of all Americans. Special guest is Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer Location: Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, Washington, DC www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "President Trump had a message for the moms of the world yesterday. He wrote, 'Wishing FLOTUS Melania and all the great mothers out there a wonderful day ahead with family and friends!' Then he went to play golf by himself."

Jimmy Kimmel: "[Donald Trump] wrote, 'James Comey better hope there are no tapes of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press.' I don't know. If I was Donald Trump, I wouldn't mention tapes and leaking in the same sentence. Just in case."

Stephen Colbert: "Right now, everyone's buzzing about a dinner the two shared shortly after the inauguration, when Trump asked Comey to pledge his loyalty to him. 'James, I thought we'd start with a Caesar salad, then the flank steak, then, for dessert, two delicious scoops of undermining the integrity of the FBI.'"

Stephen Colbert: "People close to Comey say he refused to pledge his loyalty but, instead, promised the President his honesty. But Trump pressed on, asking for Comey's 'honest loyalty.' That's the art of the deal. 'Okay. I want loyalty, you want honesty. Let's meet in the middle at 'loyalty.'"

James Corden: "Over the weekend, you must have seen, this the world's biggest ever cyber attack spread around the globe infecting 150 countries. It is pretty horrifying. Computers have been totally destroyed in some cases. Extreme cases, people were forced to have actual face-to-face conversations. It was a nightmare."

Trevor Noah: "I knew something was up when I saw President Trump with the Russians, and they were smiling. There's only two times a Russian man

smiles the day he dies, and this."

Trevor Noah: "Right now, it feels like Trump is doing everything he criticized Hillary for doing during the campaign mishandling national security secrets, under threat of FBI investigation. At this rate, next week he's going to faint in public."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump gave a commencement speech at Liberty University on Saturday. And he said, 'Always have the courage to be yourself and chase your dreams.' Then he stopped talking because he ran out of fortune cookies."

Jimmy Fallon: "I guess there was one awkward moment during the speech, when Trump said that there are more job openings than ever. Then one student said, 'Yea, cause you keep firing everyone.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump revealed highly classified information to the Russian foreign minister and ambassador during their closed-door meeting last week. You have to be kidding me? How can you let highly classified information fall into the hands of Donald Trump?"

Seth Meyers: "White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said today that there is no need for a special prosecutor in the Russia investigation. Of course, this is one of those cases where it matters how he said it. Did he say, 'There's no need for a special prosecutor'? Or was it more like, 'You don't need a special prosecutor to figure this one out.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump yesterday issued a statement calling for paid family leave, which is a little surprising until you remember that he's already paid two families to leave."

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